

NEWS

From the Office of

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Funding Secured for Disaster Preparedness

SAN BERNARDINO – The San Bernardino County Board of Supervisors on February 12 will accept a grant award from the Governor's Office of Emergency Services (OES) that will be used to improve the disaster preparedness, response, and recovery capabilities in the County.

"Preparing for disasters is a multi-faceted effort that requires the involvement of every level of government," said Supervisor Brad Mitzelfelt. "This funding will allow the County and cities in the County to better prepare plans, train volunteers and improve facilities and equipment."

The \$276,000 Emergency Management Performance Grant is administered through the Federal Emergency Management Agency, under the Homeland Security Grant program.

The purpose of the grant program is to provide support to county emergency operations agencies in an effort to facilitate better emergency coordination between local and state resources and to encourage the improvement of mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery capabilities for all hazards, whether natural or man-made. The grant will be administered locally by the San Bernardino County Office of Emergency Services, a division of the County Fire Department, which is governed by the County Board of Supervisors.

San Bernardino County has identified five priorities the grant funding could be used to improve. The first would be to integrate the National Incident Management System into existing emergency management programs, plans and procedures. Second would be to continue the development of Citizen Emergency Response Teams (CERT) and the National Weather Service Storm Ready program. Third would be to establish and implement hazard training and exercise programs. The Fourth would be to continue the development of the Telephone Emergency Notification System (TENS), commonly referred to as the reverse 911 system. And the fifth priority would be to enhance emergency operations facilities, equipment and capabilities.

The 24 cities and towns in the County, as members of the San Bernardino County Operational Area, will each be allocated a portion of the funds.